**SIXTH SENSE DEBUKED**

The sixth sense DEBUNKED: Psychic powers don't exist and are just a trick of the brain, claims study.

While experts did find that people reliably 'sensed' when a change occurred, they said the idea that it was down to a special power was wrong.

Say effect is created when a person's brain is not given time to process precise changes they see, which creates the illusion of a 'sixth sense'.

By [Daily Mail Reporter](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Daily+Mail+Reporter)

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According to recent research, being able to see into the future is merely a trick of the mind that has been misinterpreted for millennia.

Throughout the ages mystics have claimed to have a 'sixth sense' - that they can predict whether or not something good or bad is about to happen, or that they have links to another, paranormal world.

But, according to recent research, being able to see into the future or sense strange happenings is merely a trick of the mind that has been misinterpreted for millennia.

While experts did find that people reliably ‘sensed’ when changes occurred in a scene - even when they could not tell exactly what had altered - they said that the idea that it was down to a special power was fundamentally wrong. They said the ability to notice subtle changes was not down to extra sensory perception (ESP) - the supposed ability to unconsciously detect things beyond our five senses of vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch.

Instead it was because people's brains had not been given the time to process the information that they had seen, giving a vague sense of change they could not fully explain. In the study, participants were given pairs of color photographs, both of the same woman. In some cases her appearance, for example her hairstyle, would be different in the two photographs. Each photo was shown for 1.5 seconds with a one-second break between each.

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After the second picture, the observer was asked whether a change had occurred and was asked to choose it from a list of nine possible changes ranging from earrings, necklace, glasses, hat, lipstick, eye shadow, eyeliner, clothing, and hair worn. Results showed participants could generally detect when a change had occurred even when they could not identify exactly what had changed. It was discovered that people could still ‘feel’ or ‘sense’ that a change had occurred without being able to accurately describe it.



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Researchers believe this proves that people were not using an extrasensory mechanism or sixth sense. Instead, they were relying on something they had actually observed but not had time to process. When the same test was carried out using another ‘spot the difference’ test that did not contain faces, the results were still the same.

Dr Howe from the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences said:

* There is a common belief that observers can experience changes directly with their mind, without needing to rely on the traditional physical senses such as vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch to identify it.
* This alleged ability is sometimes referred to as a sixth sense or ESP (extra sensory perception).
* We were able to show that while observers could reliably sense changes that they could not visually identify, this ability was not due to extrasensory perception or a sixth sense.
* In this study we have provided direct behavioral evidence that observers can regularly detect when a change has occurred without necessarily being able to identify what has changed.
* 'We found that this ability to detect unidentified changes is not unique to images containing faces.
* It is possible that the purpose of detection is to alert the observer to the possible presence of a change so that the observer then knows to search for the change using focal attention.

The study was published in PLOS ONE.

**Forum**

* Albert Einstein said, "Everyone who is seriously interested in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe a spirit vastly superior to man, and one in the face of which our modest powers must feel humble."
* The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you. Werner Heisenberg.
* Proof of non existence does not exist. Science doesn't work that way.
* Scientist openly admit they don't know 1% of 1%. The universe, the mind and what it truly does, etc...but of course they know that this is just a trick of the mind...of course. how any scientist could even conclude a study of the unknown? tho they do don't know what large sections of the brain are even there for. How could you hate the people that said the earth is flat and you are just like them?
* Whether you believe in psychic powers or not the fact is that there are things out there which can't be explained.
* James Randi has allowed people the opportunity to prove their powers in an open environment since the inception of the Million Dollar challenge. Not one person, in all that time, has proved anything even bordering on the "para-normal". Also, just to put you straight, real scientists don't "convince", they prove.
* Actually, Psychics do not pretend to know the future. The medias are trying to give them such skills because it sells more for them. Anyone who spoke to a Psychic before know that if you find the right psychic you will end astonished by what they know about you in the present: the future is not fixed! A site call The Psychic Network is trying to change that belief at the moment... highly recommend them!
* I am amazed that people that (I assume) have had some education, still believe in 'the 6th sense'. Life is not a movie! There has never ever been a shred of evidence for such bunkum. If anyone out there disagrees, please post a link to the evidence. And when I say evidence, I mean a proper double blind, peer reviewed evidence, not 'I thought of my sister and the phone rang & it was her!!!' Anyway 'Psychic powers do not exist' is old news, very old news, maybe even older than the Earth itself, which we all know is 5000 years.